

Medical Princess 151

Chapter 151 Four Princes

Qin Wanru knew it was the time now so she said to the boy, “Hao’er, do you want to protect and stay with your maternal granny? You could hold her when she falls down. She is old now. It would be very sad that nobody would be with her.”

Shao Yuanhao thought for a while, then nodded vigorously and said, “I want to be with my maternal granny, forever!”

“There are so many people being with granny but nobody is with maternal granny. How pitiful she is!”

Hao’er raised his tearful eyes, looked at Rui’an Great Elder Princess at the main table, and gradually felt that she was so pitiful because everyone stayed away from her and didn’t play with her.

“No, I must stay with my granny and not let anyone bully her!”

Thinking for a while, Shao Yuanhao climbed down the chair and ran to Rui’an Great Elder Princess. Before he rushed up to her, he shouted, “Granny! I want to be with you! I want to always be with you! I would never go back!”

Rui’an Great Elder Princess was puzzled first and didn’t understand his meaning until he ran to hug her. Thinking about his words, she held him and was moved to tears.

She tried in vain to let him stay here!

She could ask the Mansion of Duke Xing to give her this boy but she was unwilling to see him cry and shout. She couldn’t figure out that what people of the Mansion of Duke Xing had told this boy because every time he came, he was very anxious to go home, seeming that he didn’t want to stay in her mansion at all.

However, actually Rui’an Great Elder Princess didn’t believe the Mansion of Duke Xing. She had always doubted that the cause of death of her son-in-law was related to Duke Xing but she had no evidence.

He was her only grandchild. She did want to raise him herself and was unwilling to let him stay in the Mansion of Duke Xing!

But she couldn’t own him if the boy was unwilling. After all, his family name was Shao.

Now this child asked for staying with her, which made Rui’an Great Elder Princess so moved and excited. She kept saying “okay”, reached out and patted Shao Yuanhao’s head. She raised her head and looked at Qin Wanru. Her smile was brighter and kinder.

She was very clear that her grandchild would not say so without any special reason. She didn’t expect that this boy would be so congenial to Qin Wanru and now she also liked Qin Wanru very much.

After Shao Yuanhao gave a hug to Rui’an Great Elder Princess, he wriggled and left Rui’an Great Elder Princess. He then ran to Qin Wanru, sat beside her and ate his foods.

The young woman behind her seemed to belong to the Mansion of Princess. It seemed that what happened today caused alarm and attention to Rui'an Great Elder Princess so she let people follow Shao Yuanhao again.

Many people knew Shao Yuanhao. When they saw Shao Yuanhao sitting beside Qin Wanru affectionately and Rui'an Great Elder Princess looking at Qin Wanru very gently, they began to ask who she was.

Then they knew Qin Wanru was the second daughter of the new General Qin from Jiangzhou and the other woman next to her was the second wife of General Qin. They had known that his official wife was Madam Di from Duke Yong's Mansion, whom everybody was familiar with.

Then a series of accidents just happened. It seemed that people from Duke Yong's Mansion were to plot against Qin Wanru and Rui'an Great Elder Princess kicked them off!

It seemed that the ringleader was Duke Yong's Mansion.

Things between the official wife and the second wife were Qin's Mansion's business. If Duke Yong's Mansion really did this, then they were not only hateful but also heinous. Someone even said that Madam Di's natural daughter, Young Lady Qin, tried to worsen her little sister's reputation in the dark.

However, when the Second Lady Qin who looked very young sat beside Shao Yuanhao, she seemed to be very childish and totally wasn't a young bride-to-be. So it was totally ridiculous for her to snatch a bridegroom and break off the engagement.

News traveled very fast and everyone heard and mainly learned about the complicated story of Qin's Mansion before the banquet ended.

Various kinds of comments broke out in a flash!

Most people thought that Qin Wanru was innocent and that Madam Di did this because she didn't like the second wife's daughter.

But as Rui'an Great Elder Princess treated her so well, this second lady Qin would have her power!

When the banquet ended, guests began going home. Finding that it was late, Qin Wanru stood up and wanted to say goodbye to them. But Shao Yuanhao grasped her dress.

Shao Yuanhao asked very pitifully, "Sister, are you leaving? What about me?" It seemed that he was a puppy which was to be left by people. He blinked his tearful eyes, seeming that he wanted to cry.

Qin Wanru squat down, wiped his tears, and said with a smile, "Hao'er is a good boy. I would see you in a few days."

She did like this boy. Although he seemed to be rude and impolite, he was tender and lack of love!

"Will you forget me?" asked Shao Yuanhao pitifully.

Qin Wanru smiled and answered, "Of course not. If I forget you..."

"If she forgets you, I would take you to find her in Qin's Mansion!" Suddenly, an unkind voice came out. Qin Wanru looked up and saw Chu Liuxin staring at her very proudly with a sneer. He held his head up and seemed to be very disdainful.

Qin Wanru didn't know what this Prince Xin planned to do so she just bowed sideways and took Shao Yuanhao to Rui'an Great Elder Princess and then said goodbye to her.

Hearing that Qin Wanru was to leaving, Rui'an Great Elder Princess didn't ask her to stay but just tell her to come here to play when she was free!

Qin Wanru answered her softly.

When finding out that Qin Wanru answered in front of Rui'an Great Elder Princess, Shao Yuanhao was very happy to dance. He didn't grasp Qin Wanru's dress so tightly but only told her to play with him. When Qin Wanru promised him again and again, he finally felt relaxed.

Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan followed an old maidservant and went to the parking lot where their cart was.

Chu Liuxin got angrier. Qin Wanru offended him before but she now just ignored him. He thought that his temper was so good that he didn't get extremely irritated because of this.

Although he didn't become extremely angry, he had no mood now. Thinking that he would be punished when coming back, he was in a bad mood.

Seeing Qin Wanru leaving, he knew he could not trouble her. Then he walked outside with his favorite eunuch to the outer court. He came to the inner court was to trouble Qin Wanru.

Although she ignored him, she was polite at least. He could not find out her mistake and he even noticed that Rui'an Great Elder Princess glared at him, suggesting him don't make any trouble.

Chu Liuxin felt wronged. He didn't feel well and didn't know what to do. When he walked on the stair of the attic, he seemed to be torpid.

When he popped his head out, a voice with amusement came out. "Hi, my fourth brother! I heard that you just went through a dog hole?"

Chu Liuzhou, the second Prince who was today's Prince Zhou, sat opposite to Chu Liuyue. They were playing chess.

Chu Liuzhou was much stronger, taller and more powerful than other brothers. He looked like a strong man.

He looked at Chu Liuxin and kept laughing.

Chu Liuxin took a deep breath, saluted with joined hands and said, "Big brother! Second brother!" He only saw there was Chu Liuyue in the attic just now.

Chu Liuyue raised his eyes and asked coldly, "Where did you go suddenly just now? You would be punished because of this!"

"Where? He must go to the hole in the wall. If father then asks, he could give a much clearer answer!" Prince Zhou laughed and kept patting his legs, bowing forward and leaning backward.

"You are a prince! You... Fine!" said Prince Yue. He sighed and shook his head. A smile appeared in his stern face.

"You are so careless! How could you not notice that Shao Yuanhao was following you? You even allow such a little boy to follow you. How stupid you are!" said Prince Zhou. He looked at Chu Liuxin's listless face and could not help laughing.

Chu Liuyue reached out and pointed at the chair in front of him, motioning him to sit down. He said casually, "If something really has happened to Shao Yuanhao, grand aunt would have not let you go easily. You, you are not a child now and how could you still cause this mistake? I suppose that this time grand aunt must blame you and the Mansion of Duke Xing together!"

Hearing his words, Chu Liuxin got really irritated and refused to sit down. He said with his face red and neck swollen, "Why does she blame me? Why the Mansion of Duke Xing? It is the boy who didn't notice and who ran about. Why did grand aunt blame others? She should have let more people to watch him!"

It seemed that Chu Liuyue wanted to pour oil on troubled waters. He said, "Okay then. Don't be mad. Just think about what you should say when meeting father. I am afraid that the Mansion of Duke Xing would also be scolded by father!"

"Oh man, what an annoying boy!" said Chu Liuxin angrily. He now not only hated Qin Wanru but also Shao Yuanhao. It was obvious that Rui'an Great Elder Princess threw her weight about others. The Mansion of Duke Xing and he had a very bad luck today. When he visited the Mansion of Duke Xing next time, he must build a good relationship with the First Young Master of the Mansion of Duke Xing.

At least they were fellow sufferers today. Who would know there would be an unexpected trouble? How could she then blame him! How could she blame the Mansion of Duke Xing!

Chu Liuzhou was still laughing at him but his smile was a little bit heavy. He raised his eyes and shot a glance at Chu Liuyue meaningfully...

Xiao Xuanzi ran in a hurry with a light quilt in his hands and panted out, "Master, three princes are in the opposite attic and asking you to join them!"

He was to take a quilt but unexpectedly met people of Prince Yue.

"No!" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows, leaned sideways weakly and asked, "Where is Qin Wanru?"

"She is ready to go back. I heard that those guests are returning their home now!" answered Xiao Xuanzi. He also saw some madams of other mansions passing by with their servants.

"Let her come here!" said Chu Liuchen with his eyes closed.

Xiao Xuanzi glanced at his master uneasily and explained powerlessly, "Master, I am afraid that it is inappropriate to let her come! Here is the mansion of Rui'an Great Elder Princess!"

"I want her!" This handsome man said very willfully, "I am sick!"

Chapter 152 My Only and Own Child

Xiao Xuanzi dare not promise him at this moment because he dare not be presumptuous in Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion. "Master, how about stopping Second Lady Qin on the road?"

Fearing that his master would do something willfully, he lowered his voice.

"No! Troublesome!" answered Chu Liuchen with his eyes closed.

"Master, I hear that Childe Hao of the Mansion of Duke Xing now lives in Rui'an Great Elder Princess' mansion. Second Lady Qin also promised Childe Hao that she would visit him from time to time. Rui'an Great Elder Princess also agrees!" said Xiao Xuanzi with his eyes lighting up.

"When?" asked Chu Liuchen with his long eyelashes shaking. He finally stopped asking to let Qin Wanru come here.

"In a few days!" answered Xiao Xuanzi.

"I don't feel well these days and I fear living alone in Prince Chen's Mansion. So I want to live in the Princess' Mansion these days!" said Chu Liuchen, smiling. It seemed that his smile was also in his gentle and soft voice, indicating that he had a good mood now.

"Yes, my master. I then would tell the Great Princess!" Xiao Xuanzi wiped his forehead furtively. Any reason could be reasonable if his master didn't ask him to look for Second Lady Qin at once.

Everyone knew his master was a willful man who always did whatever he liked. But in consideration of his poor health, nobody would complain.

After asking about Qin Wanru, Chu Liuchen raised his eyes and asked, "Are they still there?" His eyes suddenly turned cold, seeming that a chill pervading. Uncanny hostility haunted in his semi-open eyes, which made him look like another man.

He was not the weak and gentle handsome man now.

"Yes!" answered Xiao Xuanzi very carefully.

"Let them go back!" said Chu Liuchen, waving his sleeve. Although the sleeve was soft, the chill in his eyes indicated that he was serious.

"Let others tell them that I have a headache and want to sleep. Let them be quiet!"

"Yes, master. I, I now go and tell them!" answered Xiao Xuanzi. He blinked his eyes and thought it would be better to tell them on his own.

"Then go! Let them be quickly! If I couldn't have a good rest, and become sick again, I would report to my uncle later!"

"Yes, yes, my master. I go now and you'd better have a rest!" Xiao Xuanzi kept nodding his head.

Chu Liuchen closed his eyes again and rested his head on the other side of his soft chair, covering with the quilt which Xiao Xuanzi just took for him.

Xiao Xuanzi tucked the quilt again. Ensuring that everything was okay, he then turned around, went downstairs and walked toward the opposite attic. The two bodyguards who guarded the entrance knew him. When seeing he coming and looking at each other, they reached out and stopped Xiao Xuanzi.

“My master has something to tell three princes!” said Xiao Xuanzi. He didn’t break into the entrance but stood straight and bowed with hands clasped, smiling.

Two bodyguards dare not stop him. After they both saluted with the hands folded, one of them ran upstairs quickly and asked Xiao Xuanzi to go upstairs soon.

When Xiao Xuanzi walked upstairs, he found out that the atmosphere was quite good. Three princes talked and laughed. When seeing Xiao Xuanzi coming in, they set their eyes on him.

Xiao Xuanzi coughed lightly, bowed to three princes, raised his head and said, “Princes, my master is sleeping in the opposite building. He said he wanted to have a good rest and hoped you could be quiet. Otherwise, he has to find a place for sleeping in the Emperor’s study-room!”

His meaning was very obvious. When these three princes understood, they all got a little bit angry.

Prince Zhou took the cup near his hand, broke it into pieces powerfully and sneered. “Then I wouldn’t leave today. Just let him kick me off and complain to father. How this sick jerk dare to command us! Just let him know who he is!”

Prince Yue’s face turned livid. The light came in through the window, which made people could see the shadow in his face.

Prince Xin sneered. He was unhappy today and now he forgot Chu Liuchen’s threat. He said sourly, “Now my elder third brother has become more and more arbitrary. Does he own this mansion? If he wants to sleep, then let him sleep. How could he kick other guests off!”

“Three princes, I have told you his words. As for what should do, it depends on you!” answered Xiao Xuanzi, smiling hypocritically. He turned around, went downstairs and left before they said anything and could catch him.

“Soldier! Take the b*stard...” shouted Prince Zhou madly. He was the eldest son of the Queen. How could he, a noble prince, let a servant look down upon him!

“My second brother, do you want to irritate father?” Prince Yue raised his head and stopped him.

“Second brother, don’t be angry. Let’s go!” Prince Xin’s low voice came out.

Then there came a noise that someone was knocking over tables and chairs. Xiao Xuanzi now was downstairs. He looked up and rolled his eyes unconcernedly and walked toward his master’s building.

“These three princes are always willing to be uncomfortable. They do know my master has a rest in the opposite attic but they just pretend that they don’t know and come across. When they are irritated by master’s words, they would always cause such a great noise. Even if they want to irritate my master, they are always the one who would get irritated at the end! Why bother?”

“Every time they would make themselves mad and even hurt. They always suffer losses at the end. Actually, my master is the official royal successor. They are not at all! Even the present Emperor has

used improper means to sit in the throne. If without the deceased Queen's help, he could not have become the Emperor."

"The deceased Queen owed my master a lot!"

The situation of royal family was too complicated. He, a servant, could not have any comment on something. He just hoped his master could have a good health all the time!

Thinking about the bloodstain which his master hid with the handkerchief, Xiao Xuanzi felt like crying. When he came back, he must ask Doctor Qi, the highly skilled doctor for help to give him a prescription. His master could not get through with this!

Qin Wanru didn't know that three princes got mad because of Chu Liuchen and caused a messy farce. Now she had returned to Qin's Mansion with Shui Ruolan. However, she didn't expect that there was also another big farce in Qin's Mansion.

They saw servant girls and old maids standing on two sides when they just entered the Old Grandma's Xinning Pavilion. All people dare not make any sound.

Qin Wanru almost knew what had happened when seeing this scene.

She followed Shui Ruolan and walked slowly.

When they got into the room, Old Grandma at the main table looked bad. Madam Di and Qin Huaiyong were sitting on the both sides while Qin Yuru, beside Madam Di, was crying sadly with her handkerchief covering her face.

Hearing a servant girl reporting that Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru had come in, Qin Yuru raised her red eyes and looked extremely sad.

When seeing Qin Wanru, Madam Di banged on the table powerfully and looked very serious. "Qin Wanru! Do you still want your elder sister die? Although I am not your natural mother, you should be grateful for the care and love you received from me! How could you be so cold and tell others what happened in Jiangzhou! You almost make your elder sister could not live!" shouted Madam Di.

"Mother!" When hearing Madam Di's words, Qin Yuru couldn't help crying, leaned on the table and burst into tears lying on the desk.

Shui Ruolan's face turned livid and asked, "Sister, what do you mean? Wanru and I went to Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion and why would she try to kill Yuru?"

Madam Di answered coldly with her serious eyes, "Why? Shui Ruolan, this is not your business but Qin Wanru's. Just shut up when you know nothing!"

"What do you mean that I know nothing? What is the truth you are saying?" Shui Ruolan said angrily. She knew Madam Di said so deliberately, telling her that she had no right and reason to deal with this. However, how could she just stand by and let Madam Di and her daughter bully Qin Wanru again and again.

Before she married Qin Huaiyong, she had decided to protect Qin Wanru.

“Have you ever thought about the child you raised up would bite you? Have you ever imagined that when the child you raised up gets older would be disobedient and unkind to you?”

Madam Di sneered and said, “Then shut up if you have no such experience!”

She was mocking that Shui Ruolan wanted to get involved in this matter when she knew nothing. She also scolded Qin Wanru and called her an ungrateful person.

“You just go too far! How could you call her, an eleven-year-old girl an ungrateful person? Then what about Yuru? I do know nothing about Wanru’s childhood but now she is my daughter and I could not let her be bullied by others. Please tell us everything that what happened today on earth! Why is reasonable for people of Duke Yong’s Mansion and Yuru to bully Wanru while is totally wrong for Wanru to refute your ideas!”

Shui Ruolan glanced at Qin Huaiyong who was poker-faced and said nothing. Her eyes turned cold. She was not stupid. She learned from Qin Huaiyong’s look that he believed Madam Di and her daughter’s words and supported them.

Now she knew nothing and had no idea to deal with this. So she could only ask about the situation and told them what happened in Rui’an Great Elder Princess’ Mansion when asking.

She supposed that the cause was the event happened in the Princess’ Mansion!

“Shui Ruolan, what are you driveling about? Qin Wanru used her evil mind and did this. Do you want to blame Yuru? It is fine that you didn’t bring Yuru when meeting Rui’an Great Elder Princess today. However, when Yuru went with Duke Yong’s Mansion, did she bother you? Did she trouble you? She is my only natural child!”

When she said these words, she seemed to be wronged and felt like crying. She wiped her eyes with her handkerchief and said, “If something bad happens to her, how, how could I live!”

Qin Wanru sneered in her mind. She stood beside Shui Ruolan and saw Madam Di’s every move very clear. Madam Di pretended to get wronged on the one hand and then glanced at Qin Huaiyong on the other hand. So Madam Di’s only child was Qin Huaiyong’s only child logically. Then this child was the most valuable!

She knew Qin Yuru’s position in Qin Huaiyong’s mind very clear, which she could not compare with. Now Madam Di reminded Qin Huaiyong of this point again and again in order to let Qin Huaiyong suppress her.

“Your own child, right?”

“You just said so as if other families had no their own children...”

Chapter 153 How Influential It Would Be?

When seeing Qin Huaiyong’s eyes darkening, Qin Wanru smiled slightly, reached out and held Shui Ruolan. She said in a low voice, “Mother, don’t be angry. Please pay attention to your body. You must be tired after such a long journey. How about sit down and have a rest? Look at you; you are sweaty!”

“Ruolan, sit down first!” said Qin Huaiyong. When he looked at Shui Ruolan, his face softened.

Madam Di glared at Shui Ruolan hatefully. "A mean widow! How could she not be ashamed of having our general's baby? She needs to know she is shameless!" Then Madam Di set her eyes on Shui Ruolan's abdomen. If her eyes were fire, Shui Ruolan's abdomen would be burnt a hole.

Shui Ruolan didn't refuse his suggestion and nodded in agreement. Then she sat in the chair beside Qin Huaiyong with Qin Wanru's help.

This scene made Madam Di nearly get mad but when she raised her head, she then became angry and wronged. She looked at Qin Huaiyong and said, "General, just say something!"

Qin Huaiyong looked at Qin Wanru, frowned and asked, "You had a quarrel with Yuru when you meet at the entrance of Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion, didn't you?"

"Yes, but I had no quarrel with elder sister. It was the lady of Duke Yong's Mansion who tried to push me down the fence. There are numerous gravels. People would either die or get hurt if falling down. Lady Yan of the Deputy Prime Minister's Mansion could not bear and helped me a lot! Many people also saw the scene!"

Qin Wanru raised her eyes and said blankly, "Why are you crying? It is I who got hurt, isn't it? Or is elder sister worrying about me?"

She set her blank eyes on crying Qin Yuru and her angry mother, seeming that she didn't know her mistake.

"You are lying! It is you who told them about the event of Jiangzhou deliberately!" shouted Madam Di quickly when she found that the thing went wrong. She felt extremely angry in her heart because she didn't receive the invitation card from Rui'an Great Elder Princess. When people of Duke Yong's Mansion finally promised to bring Qin Yuru together, she, however, came back like a drowned rat.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess was not the Duke Fengyang so it would be quite difficult to be invited by her. With that honor, if she met the Princess of Duke Yangqu, she dare not say anything at Rui'an Great Elder Princess' banquet. If she agitated Great Elder Princess, the Princess of Duke Yangqu could not take this responsibility.

However, she missed this perfect chance and let Shui Ruolan appear in front of others first. How would others think about her?

Was she unwanted? Would she not be the official wife soon and let the second wife be an honor guest? Would the general not want his official wife?

Madam Di had been angry about this while Qin Yuru came back in tears. However, she could not let off her anger on Shui Ruolan and then she chose Qin Wanru.

"What did I tell others?" Qin Wanru seemed to be much blanker, and said, "So do you mean that I explained to others that I didn't snatch other's bridegroom and I didn't break off the engagement in Jiangzhou?"

When she finished, she deliberately turned around, looked at Shui Ruolan and asked hesitantly, "Mother, many ladies being with elder sister said I did these things, didn't they? Couldn't I explain to them that I never did these things?"

Shui Ruolan turned and looked at Qin Huaiyong. She looked a little bit serious and asked, with her hands covering her abdomen subconsciously, "General, why would they say that to Wanru? Wanru just arrived in the capital city and she isn't a well-known lady of an aristocrat family. However, why would so many people say that to her? When we just entered the mansion, there were many ladies of Duke Yong's Mansion and they were all talking about this!"

A hint of hate flashed in Madam Di's eyes and she set her eyes on Shui Ruolan's abdomen. Now Shui Ruolan's abdomen was her most hateful thing. She always hoped that Shui Ruolan would be irritated, which would affect the fetus or miscarry directly!

"They are spreading gossip about Wanru?" Hearing this, Qin Huaiyong felt strange. He raised his eyes and watched Qin Yuru who was still crying and lying on the table.

In Qin's Mansion, Qin Yuru was the first person who came to the capital city. So if there were some people talking about Qin Wanru, Qin Yuru would be very doubtful. Thinking about the event in Jiangzhou, Qin Huaiyong could not say that his eldest daughter was totally innocent.

However, she was his only daughter!

"Yes, they are. Wanru just explained a few words and why would the thing become killing Yuru? Or is Wanru really wrong for doing that? So is it reasonable to slander Wanru?" Shui Ruolan sneered. Although she was very gentle and soft, when seeing Qin Huaiyong being indecisive, she felt angry and made her voice sharp unconsciously!

"Yuru, tell me about that. How do people know the event in Jiangzhou? How do they know those things like snatching bridegroom and breaking the engagement?" Qin Huaiyong said with a solemn face and banged on the table with his hand.

"Father, I have no idea! I didn't do that!" said Qin Yuru. She felt nervous and she didn't expect that Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru would use this point. But she had prepared before so she denied at once!

"If elder sister didn't do that, then who would do that? Who would know me?" asked Qin Wanru painfully, seeming that she was also very indecisive.

Except Qin Yuru, who would know Qin Wanru before she arrived in the capital city and who would hate her so much?

Here, Qin Wanru seemed to remember something, turned around and said to Qin Huaiyong, "Father, Countess Yong was asked to leave by Rui'an Great Elder Princess!"

If Qin Huaiyong could not make a decision at once, then just let her push him!

A hint of grimness flashed in her beautiful eyes. Madam Di and her daughter certainly didn't expect what happened when Qin Yuru had left.

"What?" Qin Huaiyong asked quickly as his expression changed.

"Nonsense! It is impossible!" Madam Di screamed loudly.

"No!" shouted Qin Yuru, gnashing her teeth. She finally did not pretend to cry, raised her head and glared at Qin Wanru.

"It is true. Now everyone in the capital city knows this. If you don't believe me, now you could send someone to ask about it outside the mansion that whether Countess Yong is kicked off!"

Shui Ruolan said coldly aside.

"Why would Rui'an Great Elder Princess ask my sister-in-law to leave? Nonsense!" Madam Di bit the bullet and said powerfully. Seeing them being calm and peaceful, Madam Di gradually felt anxious and didn't believe that this would happen to her maiden home.

Qin Huaiyong also didn't believe and stared at Shui Ruolan.

"I hear that it is related to the kidnapping of Rui'an Great Elder Princess' grandchild!" Shui Ruolan answered.

"Is it true?" Qin Huaiyong had to face this fact. If it was true, it would be a really serious event for Duke Yong's Mansion, which would definitely affect their reputation!

"Yes!" Shui Ruolan nodded affirmatively again.

"Father, I also got involved in this. There was a slip of paper on which my name is written. I am a new-comer but they have known me. Then it is said that the slip of paper belongs to Duke Yong's Mansion. However, mother and I don't know the details. Anyway, Rui'an Great Elder Princess was very angry and asked Countess Yong to leave at once!"

Qin Wanru explained the event logically with her eyes flickering.

Though her explanation was a little bit vague and didn't point directly at Duke Yong's Mansion, Rui'an Great Elder Princess' decision explained everything with evidence!

Hearing her words, Qin Huaiyong believed her at once and glared at Madam Di whose face turning pale immediately. He shouted angrily, "What does Duke Yong's Mansion want to do on earth?"

If this event was related to Qin Wanru, then it went to Qin's Mansion. Now Qin Huaiyong didn't get promoted and if something bad happened to Qin Wanru, his career would be influenced greatly. How could he not get mad when thinking of this!

Madam Di got flustered. She didn't expect that things would go like this!

It was certain that Countess Yong didn't like Qin Wanru but why she would really cause trouble, even in front of Rui'an Great Elder Princess who then asked her to leave at the end. Then how could she plan to let her sister-in-law bring Shui Ruolan to Marquises' Mansion of Fengyang?

How could she plan to let her sister-in-law trap Shui Ruolan and make her miscarry?

"What did she do? She is calm all the time but how could she do this ridiculous thing?" Madam Di was angry and anxious.

Now she was complaining about Countess Yong but she didn't expect that she put Countess Yong in the wrong because it was her niece, Di Fenglan who did without thinking when she got mad. Actually, it had nothing to do with Countess Yong!

"Sister-in-law would definitely not do this! You must misunderstand her!" No matter how she thought in her mind, Madam Di still said powerfully, gnashing her teeth with her eyes flickering.

"Misunderstand? Rui'an Great Elder Princess misunderstood her?" Qin Huaiyong asked with a livid face.

"It may be... It must be because Rui'an Great Elder Princess favors Wanru that she misunderstood my sister-in-law! She sent the invitation card to Wanru, directly, without mentioning my Yuru. I don't know why Rui'an Great Elder Princess would look down upon my Yuru. Logically, she should invite these two sisters in pair!"

Madam Di lowered her head sadly. Her meaning was that Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru had spoken evil of Qin Yuru and Duke Yong's Mansion in front of Rui'an Great Elder Princess, which made Rui'an Great Elder Princess had a prejudice against Qin Yuru and Duke Yong's Mansion. She must misunderstand them and then asked them to leave.

Realizing that Madam Di was confusing right and wrong, Shui Ruolan got really mad and shook with anger. She knew Madam Di was shameless but she didn't expect that Madam Di would have no sense of shame at all! When she tried to stand up and say something, Qin Wanru tugged her sleeves and said, "Does father think that Rui'an Great Elder Princess has favored me so much like this? We only met once. Would she believe me like this?"

Now Shui Ruolan quickly understood her meaning, turned and said to Qin Huaiyong, "General, if Rui'an Great Elder Princess does favor Wanru so much, then your promotion would be... a piece of cake!"

When Madam Di heard this, her expression changed drastically...

Chapter 154 The Loss of Dowry Was an Abyss!

"Yuru, you really didn't spread the gossip, did you?" asked Qin Huaiyong. As he finished asking, his eyes became strangely deep at once.

"No! Father! I didn't do that!" answered Qin Yuru. Unlike Madam Di who always reacted quickly, a hint of pride flashed in her eyes as she heard what Qin Huaiyong asked. She believed that her father wouldn't punish her if she said nothing. By the way, she didn't do that but it was those ladies who were curious and sent their servants to ask her servants about this gossip.

Qin Huaiyong said decisively, "Then it must be your servants who spread the gossip. Tell the steward! Flog each for 10 times and deprive of their half-year salary!"

"Father!" Qin Yuru screamed. She was stunned and she didn't expect that Qin Huaiyong would punish all her servants. Now her people were punished and it must be very difficult for her to cultivate servants loyal to her in the future.

"If there is still someone who gossips, then we just sell him and kick him out. We don't need any servant who always gossips!" said Qin Huaiyong who then stood up with a grim expression.

"General, Yuru knows nothing, and you..." Madam Di tried to intercede for Qin Yuru and also stood up.

"That's enough. You have horsed around for a long time and now you'd better go back. Mother must be tired!" Qin Huaiyong didn't let her finish and interrupted her. Then he bowed to Old Grandma who had kept silence all the time and left.

When he walked to the door, he seemed to think of something. He turned around and watched Shui Ruolan carefully. As his eyes became gentle and soft, he said, "Ruolan, take a good rest. I will ask my people to send you two old maidservants!"

"I sure appreciate, cousin!" said Shui Ruolan. She then stood up and bowed sideways to him.

Qin Huaiyong nodded and gave a glance at Qin Wanru, seeming that he wanted to say something. However, he said nothing in the end. He just moved his lips, then he turned around and strode away.

"Father..." Qin Yuru didn't satisfy with this result and tried to follow him but Madam Di caught her. Feeling Madam Di's palm was sweating, Qin Yuru gnashed her teeth and calmed down out of the blue.

"Mother, I want grandma!" Qin Yuru turned around and wiped her tears with her handkerchief. She also wanted to remind all people here that she was the granddaughter of Duke Yong's Mansion!

She was unwilling to let Qin Wanru prevail. Since she knew that she was Qin Huaiyong's only daughter, Qin Yuru gradually had a good opinion of herself, thinking that Qin Wanru, a b*stard who had no parents, was unable to be comparable with her.

When she found that Qin Wanru knew nothing and kept calling Madam Di "mother" affectionately, she felt that she was seeing a joke. The b*stard with humble origin was totally unworthy to have the same mother with her!

How could she not get mad when she was suppressed by this b*stard who she always despised now! Although she didn't really want to go to Duke Yong's Mansion, she just tried to remind them that she came from Duke Yong's Mansion. Qin Wanru, this b*stard without parents could not be comparable with her.

"Yuru, don't cry. If someone does sow discord between Wanru and you, he or she must be punished," said Madam Di. She knew she put her foot in it spontaneously under the lead of Qin Wanru. She had also expected that the thing would go wrong since Qin Wanru said so after her words.

Then Qin Huaiyong punished Qin Yuru's servants without hesitation. She was extremely irritated but she couldn't show her emotion on her face!

Madam Di forced a smile and said to Shui Ruolan, "Sister, sorry to trouble you for the business in the mansion. I would tell Yuru's servants to come and you must punish them and teach them the rules in this mansion clearly!"

Now it was Shui Ruolan who took charge of the business in this mansion. So it was reasonable to let her deal with this thing.

Madam Di didn't get along well with Shui Ruolan. Thus, if Shui Ruolan asked people to punish Madam Di's servants, these servants would hate Shui Ruolan and they would be much more loyal to Madam Di.

Qin Wanru sneered and thought, "How crafty Madam Di is! She could even come up with an idea in a flash. No wonder she has been in charge of the Qin's Mansion for so many years. She is the boss of the inner court and even Old Grandma couldn't suppress her!"

Finding out that Shui Ruolan tried to say something, Qin Wanru reached out and grabbed her sleeve, giving her a sign that she would do this.

“Madam, father gave this order so they should look for the steward of the outer court for punishment. We should also allow all servants in the mansion to watch the punishment. Then those who always gossip dare not do that anymore. If they still gossip, then it would not be the simple flogging and deprivation of salary waiting for them!”

Qin Wanru raised her head and said with a smile.

“If this punishment order is within the jurisdiction of the inner court, then it should be Shui Ruolan who asks people to punish them but it is Qin Huaiyong who wants them to be punished, which means that this order belongs to the business of the outer court whose steward is loyal to Qin Huaiyong.”

“If so, it would seem that it is Madam Di who sends her servants to receive punishment. People in this mansion would know that it isn’t Shui Ruolan who finds faults with Madam Di’s servants and wants to punish them because Shui Ruolan dislikes Madam Di. The two situations have totally different meanings.”

“It is about our inner court but why would it bother father’s servants but not Madam Shui?” asked Qin Yuru immediately as she seemed to realize the deep meaning of the order.

“But father said so and it isn’t mother who wants to punish them!” Qin Wanru said as her eyes flashed.

“What? How dare you say in this way?” Qin Yuru was irritated!

“I am telling you father’s meaning. Am I wrong?” Qin Wanru’s eyes became cold.

Qin Yuru got mad and her face turned red. When she tried to say something, Old Grandma interrupted her directly and said, “Do you finish? If you could finish, then you just leave here. I feel tired. If you still don’t have a clear conclusion, then you just go and find Huai’er. He has not gone far. You could send someone to stop him!”

She said very calmly. It was the first time that Old Grandma talked to them since Qin Wanru came here. What she said had shown her impatience and dissatisfaction very clear.

If Madam Di and her daughter wanted to badger with them, they dare not say anything because of Old Grandma’s words.

Madam Di took a deep breath and forced a smile. She said, “Mother, Yuru and I would leave soon. And how do you think of the matter that I told you before?”

Madam Di knew that if they continued, they would only irritate Old Grandma and she would really ask Qin Huaiyong to come here again. Now confronting the tough with toughness was an improper solution. Thus, Madam Di changed the topic immediately and reminded Old Grandma of the thing that Qin Huaiyong and she asked Old Grandma before.

“It depends on you!” answered Old Grandma. She closed her eyes feebly. She looked very pale as her face yellowed and then turned white.

It also seemed that Old Grandma had been in a bad mood as she sat there and said nothing just now.

“If you agree, that would be great. Then Yuru and I leave now.” Finding that her purpose was achieved, Madam Di now didn’t want to badger with Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan.

Madam Di then bowed to Old Grandma and asked Qin Yuru to bow to her even though she was unwilling. Then Madam Di left with Qin Yuru.

After they left, Shui Ruolan asked anxiously, "Mother, what did you just promise sister?"

Madam Di's reaction was very strange. She even could stand the thing that Qin Yuru's servants were to be punished. It seemed that her intention was not simple. Shui Ruolan was afraid that she would do harm to Old Grandma.

"She wants some new shops that our mansion just bought!" Old Grandma sneered and said, "And Huai'er also agreed with her!"

Qin Huaiyong came here with Madam Di was to ask about those new-bought shops. They said that these shops as dowry were very necessary when marrying into Duke Yong's Mansion. In addition, Qin's Mansion could not be looked down upon by them. They had a very long talk and then Qin Yuru came back in tears.

"How about her shops?" Qin Wanru asked immediately as she knew that this thing wouldn't be simple.

"She just told me that because she has not been in the capital city for years, she asked people of Duke Yong's Mansion to take care of her shops. However, she didn't expect that the steward didn't care about her shops because he thought Madam Di has not been in capital city all the time. Then the number of shops gradually decreased. And now, there is only loss but no profit at all!"

Old Grandma answered tiredly. Not only her body was exhausted, but also her heart.

She used to have no complaint but now she had. She felt gradually disappointed at what she saw. Madam Di endlessly asked her for something only because she came from Duke Yong's Mansion.

An idea suddenly jumped to Qin Wanru's mind. She asked, "Grandma, that steward didn't return you those shops, did he?"

"Well, that steward almost returns me those shops but he has to adjust the accounts first. When I received those accounts, I would let Madam Di and your mother look over it and then I could seal it. After that, our mansion would manage those shops. However, now these shops have been losing money. So even though he returned me these shops, they are useless!"

Old Grandma answered.

"Why would let mother check it?" asked Qin Wanru confusedly. These accounts were Madam Di's dowry and she could check them by herself but why would let Shui Ruolan get involved? It was so strange that Madam Di would become so generous.

"It is your father's request. Because of the loss, our mansion even owed a lot of money to the Duke Yong's Mansion. When those accounts are clear, we still have to return them the money which Duke Yong's Mansion helped us!"

The more Old Grandma thought, the angrier she was. She also had dowry, quite a few at that time. She didn't believe Madam Di's words. If her shops lost money, then she just left them. Moreover, how could those shops still lose money with subsidy!

"If those shops do lose a lot of money, they could write to Madam Di and let her deal with this but why would they still invest the shops! Is Duke Yong's Mansion really very wealthy? Are they truly willing to pay for her daughter who has married into another family when the family doesn't know this thing?"

"Duke Yong's Mansion must consider us as idiots!"

However, even though she knew something was wrong she had no evidence. Thus, she could only give Duke Yong's Mansion the money.

People of the outer court spent mostly on new shops and some on presents which were prepared for some Qin Huaiyong's friends in the capital city. Old Grandma had money in the account of the inner court so she wanted to use this money to pay. And now it was Shui Ruolan who took charge of the business of the inner court so Shui Ruolan had to check the accounts.

The matter was very complicated so Old Grandma thought Qin Wanru didn't understand. At the same time, she was so angry that she couldn't help speaking out!

"Grandma, may I help mother check the account? She couldn't be too tired now!" Qin Wanru smiled and tried to get this work.

"I never expect that there would be such a matter. Well, it also saves me a lot of trouble. I know something is wrong with Madam Di's dowry and try to throw out a minnow to catch a whale. But now, the minnow is in front of me and how could I refuse!"

"As for why Madam Di becomes so generous now, it must be that she considers this minnow as a useless minnow."

Old Grandma thought Qin Wanru's worry was reasonable so she nodded in agreement. She said, "Okay, then you need to give a hand to your mother!"

Old Grandma thought that her little granddaughter had become more and more clever and it would be better to confront with the cunning and crafty Madam Di with her help!

It was definitely not enough with a small minnow. Thus, she needed more. Qin Wanru raised her head and asked with a smile, "Grandma, do you have other accounts? We may check the first account at that time."

Chapter 155 Let Her Find an Excuse to Confiscate the Property of the Jingxin Monastery!

"The first account?" Old Grandma asked as she couldn't remember what Qin Wanru was asking.

"Mother, what Wanru asked might be the list of dowry when sister married into Qin's Mansion." Shui Ruolan explained. She had a very quick mind and understood Qin Wanru's words immediately.

"There should be one!" said Old Grandma. She then turned and looked at Nanny Duan as she always let Nanny Duan keep those important things!

When a woman married into her husband's family, there would be a list of dowry sent to the family. Then people of the family would check the list and recorded them when they received the dowry!

“Old Grandma, the list is still there. I have always kept them carefully for you!” said Nanny Duan after she thought carefully for a while. The list was very important which she dare not lose. Thus, she paid particular attention to the list before coming here and then brought it to the capital city.

Madam Di had been talking about the capital of those shops in Jiangzhou, claiming that those capital shops belonged to her dowry. Thus, it was hard to expect what Madam Di would claim in the capital city. If they had this list, then they had evidence!

“If it is still there, that would be great! Grandma, you could give it to mother then! If Madam Di leads to troubles again because of this, then mother could prepare for it!” Qin Wanru suggested calmly.

Every time when Madam Di talked about her dowry, Shui Ruolan had no idea to reply as she wasn’t clear about the details and she was unable to get to the point. Moreover, Old Grandma couldn’t always have the energy to toss about this with Madam Di. Thus, the best way was to give Shui Ruolan this list and let her get clear about this.

“Thus, even if Madam Di wants to make a fuss, she has to think twice. Moreover, I wanna use this list to unmask the Duke Yong’s Mansion!”

Old Grandma thought for a moment and then she understood Qin Wanru’s intention. She smiled, nodded and said, “Great, I would let Nanny Duan send your mother this list soon!”

When the discussion was over, Old Grandma then asked Shui Ruolan to have a rest. Shui Ruolan looked a little bit tired as she now was with child and she had to meet the guest.

Shui Ruolan herself did have no energy to continue the talk so she directly stood up and took leave of Old Grandma.

Seeing Shui Ruolan ready to leave, Qin Wanru also stood up and left with her.

“Grandma looks really bad. It must be because Madam Di has made a fuss here for a long time. Grandma now is old and weak. She must take a good rest and keep herself away from Madam Di’s stuff.”

Qin Yuru was irritated in her room. Her pretty face was distorted by her fury. She took a cup near her hand and threw it to the ground madly. She shouted, “Mother, why would father so favor Qin Wanru? I am his only natural daughter! How could he not help me but the b*stard? Why?”

Thinking of the scene in Old Grandma’s room, Qin Yuru was totally unable to calm down her irritated mind.

“Why could a b*stard be invited to Rui’an Great Elder Princess’ Mansion’s banquet? Why would I, the true lady of Qin’s Mansion, have to follow people of the Duke Yong’s Mansion to Princess’ Mansion? I even had to return home because of Di Fenglan and Qin Wanru. Why could Di Fenglan still stay there and only ask me to come back!”

“I am the better one!”

Her fury almost overwhelmed her. Qin Yuru’s eyes became red and she took another cup and threw it away.

Now she not only hated Qin Wanru but also Di Fenglan. If Di Fenglan had not made a mess, she wouldn't have had to be asked to leave without any explanation!

Madam Di sneered. She knew something must go wrong when she said that words. She said, "Yuru, your father only thinks that Qin Wanru could be good for him as Rui'an Great Elder Princess favors her so he has to punish your servants. How could he treat her like a treasure! Does he not know who his natural daughter is?"

Gnashing her teeth, Qin Yuru answered, "Mother, I cannot bear this! How could she be favored by Rui'an Great Elder Princess? She must dirtily say something to the Princess. Otherwise, the Princess would not like her!"

She was jealous of Qin Wanru for Rui'an Great Elder Princess preferred her. She then got mad and thought angrily that why the one Rui'an Great Elder Princess liked wasn't her! She was better than Qin Wanru! Rui'an Great Elder Princess was absolutely blind.

She definitely dare not say it out. Even though she dare not say so, the jealousy in her eyes had explained it all. She had always been the noblest lady in the mansion but now Qin Wanru was much better than her!

"What is your grandma's reply?" Madam Di calmed down now and asked with her eyes flashing.

Although Madam Di didn't say it clearly, Qin Yuru understood at once. Then her fury faded away and her face looked deep. She said, "Grandma said that we still have to wait!"

"Wait? Until when? Or does she want to find another much nobler lady? The engagement before went nowhere, didn't it? The lady doesn't like Di Yan!"

Madam Di banged on the table and her voice sounded grimly angry.

If not Qin's Mansion was not good enough, she wouldn't want to wait for others to choose her daughter even though the opposite side was her maiden home.

Madam Di knew that Countess Yong wanted a daughter-in-law who was much more suitable and much nobler. However, she always thought that her daughter was the best. Now Countess Yong didn't make a decision, which made Madam Di distracted.

Madam Di thought that if an engagement had been made between Duke Yong's Mansion and her daughter, today's thing wouldn't have happened and Qin Huaiyong wouldn't have treated his wife and daughter like this.

It seemed that she had to go to Duke Yong's Mansion!

"Yuru, don't worry. I would go to Duke Yong's Mansion again and settle the engagement between Di Yan and you!" said Madam Di. She looked calm but actually she was very anxious.

"I would listen to you! Mother, the b*stard made a hit today. If something bad is spread from Jiangzhou, others would know that it is I who did that. What should I do then?"

Although Qin Yuru also worried about her marriage to some extent, she didn't feel very anxious as her cousin kept promising her that he would marry her. They even pledged their eternal love. It was her

aunt who didn't agree with this marriage. However, her cousin told her that no matter how his mother would prevent the marriage, he would marry her. She only needed to wait.

Now she cared much about Qin Wanru's words which exposed her lie that she spread before. Because of this, many ladies looked at her strangely. She knew that they suspected her. Therefore, she felt very wronged and furious!

And Qin Wanru destroyed the perfect trap with her words again!

"No. People in Jiangzhou would not focus on you as the place is far from here. Moreover, if something bad was spread here, nobody would know what the story is before. One fake story means that there must be many fake stories. They would only consider these as a joke. And they would turn to Qin Wanru for I asked people to spread a gossip about her when I left Jiangzhou!"

Madam Di sneered.

"Really? Mother?" Qin Yuru looked happy and surprised.

Madam Di comforted her and said, "It is true. Yuru, you only need to wait. I am not sure the gossip whether would be spread here. Even so, you have nothing to do with this."

Qin Yuru felt satisfied and nodded. She said proudly, "Mother, when Qi Tianyu comes, I would go and meet him. I believe that he would definitely listen to me!"

Qi Tianyu played the key role in the gossip. If he said the same words as she told him, she could have a chance to explain. Thus it would not matter if those gossips spread here.

And, of course, she didn't think that Qi Tianyu would be a problem for her!

"How clever Yuru is!" Madam Di said with satisfaction.

When they all agreed on the plan, Madam Di then walked out Qin Yuru's room. When she walked, she asked Nanny Zhou, "How do you think of sister-in-law's meaning?"

Unlike Qin Yuru, she was much lack of confidence in Countess Yong.

"Madam, I think that Countess Yong must have other ideal candidates. Otherwise, she wouldn't let you keep waiting and waiting!" answered Nanny Zhou. She had been working in Duke Yong's Mansion for years before so she knew much about Countess Yong.

"Well, how dare she look down upon my Yuru? If not..." Madam Di sneered and stopped. She then asked, "Do you find out the seal?"

"Madam, no. It might drop somewhere when packing the belongings in the capital city!" answered Nanny Zhou in a low voice. She knew what her madam was asking.

"I need it now!" Madam Di clenched her fist and then relaxed it slowly. She said, "I suppose that the seal wasn't only a simple seal. We might use it now!"

"I understand you!" Nanny Zhou's face turned white and asked, "I just don't know whether it is true?"

"No matter whether it is true, we have to try. Perhaps it is true. If so, sister-in-law would keep asking me to make the engagement between her son and Yuru!" Madam Di sneered. "If not because Qin's Mansion is so weak, I would not let Yuru marry Di Yan who looks like a loser."

Anyway she had to try. If this worked, Yuru could be much nobler than now and become one of the few noblest ladies in the capital city.

"Old Grandma's cup also disappears?" Nanny Zhou asked carefully and looked around. Those servant girls and old maidservants behind who knew she was Madam Di's trusted follower supposed that Madam Di and Nanny Zhou must talk about some secrets when the two got so close to each other, and then they backed away ten more steps on their own.

"She said that she left the cup in the Jingxin Monastery! However, I don't believe that she would give such an important thing to others so casually!" said Madam Di with a cold smile.

"Then what should we do?" Nanny Zhou asked. She also didn't believe Old Grandma's words but Old Grandma did say so and she could not search Old Grandma's house.

"Then we now look for it here and then write to Madam Li of Magistrate. Let her find an excuse to confiscate the property of Jingxin Monastery! I don't believe that we couldn't find out the thing when the property of Jingxin Monastery is all confiscated! As we have promised Madam Li to make a good engagement for Qi Rongzhi, Madam Li would definitely help us!" A grim smile was on Madam Di's face. She then changed the topic and asked, "Have servants sent by sister-in-law arrived here yet?"

"To confiscate the property of Jingxin Monastery only for a glass cup?" Nanny Zhou was shocked but she dare not say anything else when seeing Madam Di's face which showed her determination. "They have all arrived. I have also checked them and I am sure that they are loyal to you. Madam, you could ask them to do anything trustingly!" Nanny Zhou answered carefully, knowing that Madam Di was asking about those servant girls and old maids sent by servant trader.

"Divide them into different groups. Don't arrange them all in my house and Yuru's!" Madam Di said, "When Qi Tianyu comes here, send someone to watch him in case thing would go wrong!"

Madam Di was not Qin Yuru. She didn't believe that Qi Tianyu would always listen to Qin Yuru!

"Yes, I got it!"

"And those things... You could lead to some troubles for them to make them have a quarrel!" Madam Di sneered as her eyes were grim and her smile was cold. Her mother taught her to cut flesh with a blunt knife. If she got wronged, general wouldn't always suspect her. Nobody could be sure that the child could be born safely in the end!

If this time she failed, then she would continue to try until she won Shui Ruolan!

"I would tell them clearly and let them choose the best chance to cause troubles! And nobody would find out!" Nanny Zhou understood Madam Di's meaning and answered with a very proud smile in her face!

"How perfect Madam Di's method is!"

Chapter 156 "With all My Heart! Let's Flee Away!"

Qi Tianyu didn't know that he had been watched by people of Qin's Mansion. Staring at the beautiful clothes in front of him, he was hesitant!

"Should I break off with the Qin's Mansion?"

After thinking for a while, he let his servant take the clothes and headed to Qin's Mansion with him.

When he arrived at Qin's Mansion, he visited Qin Huaiyong first out of courtesy. After a short talk, Qin Huaiyong let an old maid take him to meet Qi Rongzhi.

Qi Rongzhi lived in a guestroom. As she was female, she lived in the one closed to the Chuihua Gate. Many people had seen Qi Tianyu following the old maid and some even reported to Qin Yuru.

Qi Rongzhi was in a bad mood. When Qi Tianyu came in, he saw her servant girl, Chun Yi who knelt on the ground crying. Qi Rongzhi seemed to get mad again as she looked unhappy.

"Bring some tea for my elder brother! Now!" Qi Rongzhi kicked Chun Yi and shouted, "Stupid girl!"

Chun Yi quickly stood up with her red eyes and backed away in a hurry.

Chun Xi then brought a cup of tea to him.

Qi Tianyu sat beside and let his servant put the clothes on the table.

Looking at these gorgeous clothes, Qi Rongzhi was very pleased. She reached out and touched the clothes. Then she stared at the lacework and the embroidery. She was so satisfied that she smiled brightly.

"Thank you elder brother!" Seeing Qi Tianyu taking out a jewelry box from his pocket, Qi Rongzhi smiled so brightly and reached out. When she took the box, she found that the jewelry was of latest style, which were like those Qin Yuru wore on head these days, even better than those. Her eyes lighted up.

"Rongzhi, you are now living in Qin's Mansion. You couldn't act like being in our home. Even though the lady of Qin's Mansion is not good, you have to bear it. It is father and mother's wish. Understand?"

Qi Tianyu found that Qi Rongzhi was in a good mood now and people in this room were all their trusted followers. Thus, he said to her directly without any worry.

"I know. I know I have to choose a, eh, a good..." Qi Rongzhi said with her face turning red. She hummed and hawed. Her mother had kept telling her this before she came to the capital city.

She needed to make a good engagement with Qin's Mansion's help after she arrived in the capital city.

"Therefore, you have to pay attention to your words and behaviors. You couldn't have a quarrel with Qin's sisters. You are now living here so all your behaviors couldn't make them unpleasant. Otherwise, I couldn't help you as I am not here!" Qi Tianyu told her sister again.

"Elder brother, does Qin Yuru tell you something?" When Qi Rongzhi heard Qi Tianyu's words, her smile disappeared.

"No, she doesn't. It is you who have to figure out your situation clearly. You must remember that you couldn't fight with Qin's sisters again before you have a good engagement. You don't have to worry about Wanru as she is a child but, you must be careful of Yuru!"

Qi Tianyu warned Qi Rongzhi.

"Okay, brother. I know. Don't worry. I wouldn't cause any trouble! And I wouldn't have a fight with Qin Yuru!" said Qi Rongzhi. She knew this clearly so she would prefer to be in a sulk these days rather than have a fight with Qin Yuru.

She could bear it! She could bear anything for her marriage!

She didn't understand until her nanny who followed her to the capital city told everything to her very clearly.

"That would be great. I don't want to stay here for too long so I leave now. If you need me, just let the servant write to me." Qi Tianyu stood up, thought for a while and then said, "You could also turn to second brother."

"Qi Baiyu? Come on, elder brother. What could he do? The only thing he could do is to climb over the wall and play with Qin Wanru. Moreover, now we are not in Jiangzhou. Qin Wanru might even not want to play with him even if he finds her!" Qi Rongzhi said enigmatically.

She always despised this half-blooded brother. She even used to treat him like a servant in her mansion.

Hearing Qi Rongzhi's words, Qi Tianyu knew that he couldn't explain to her. He frowned, turned around and then left without any words.

Qi Rongzhi's mind was full of those clothes and jewelry. She even didn't see him off. She then took the clothes and tried on them in her room.

When Qi Tianyu walked out Qi Rongzhi's room and turned a corner, he ran into Qin Yuru.

Qin Yuru, in a light mint green dress, stood at the end of the gravel road, looked at him with her slightly red eyes. She clenched the handkerchief tightly in her hand. She looked so melancholy and weak.

Qi Tianyu stopped at a distance. He stared at Qin Yuru with his deep eyes and didn't walk close to her.

"Brother Tianyu!" Qin Yuru turned quickly and ran to him. She looked so surprised that it seemed that she didn't expect to meet him here.

"Lady Qin!" Seeing her coming, Qi Tianyu made a bow with his hands folded in front and answered.

"Brother Tianyu, why, why would you call me like this?" Qin Yuru looked so sad that she was ready to cry. Standing in front of Qi Tianyu, she seemingly didn't know what to say but only feeling sad and grieved.

"Lady Qin. It is, it is the best way!" Shaking his head, Qi Tianyu looked somber and said. He set his eyes on the ground in front of him, showing his politeness and alienation.

In terms of the appearance, Qi Tianyu was much more handsome than Di Yan. He was tall and strong and they were childhood sweethearts to each other. Thus, Qi Tianyu was very special in Qin Yuru's

heart. Moreover, they even had an engagement before when there was no news coming from the capital city. Qin Yuru did want to marry him at that time.

She broke the engagement later because of the order from Duke Yong's Mansion.

She even didn't feel sad after she broke the engagement as she thought that Qi Tianyu would always listen to her even when she had engagement with Di Yan. However, when seeing Qi Tianyu trying to disown her, she was flustered.

Her eyes really turned red now. Even though they were still in the yard, she didn't care too much. She headed forward, grabbed his sleeve and then burst into tears. She cried, "Brother Tianyu... I don't, I don't want to be like this!"

"Lady Qin, now it is the best way for us..." Qi Tianyu paused as he didn't expect that Qin Yuru would lose her head. He then quickly reached out, took her hand away from his sleeve and said calmly.

"Brother Tianyu, I don't want to be like this... I don't want you to treat me like this... You are always my Brother Tianyu!" Qin Yuru finally lost control and burst into tears. Her tears kept dropping. She seemed to be so weak that she leaned in his arms. If she didn't catch Qi Tianyu, she would nearly collapse uncontrollably.

Now she only felt sad. "How could Brother Tianyu treat me like this! How could he treat me like a stranger!"

Qi Tianyu knew that it was impossible to push her away. Looking around, Qi Tianyu took Qin Yuru and walked to the back side of the artificial hill.

Although they were not standing on the main road, it would be inappropriate to be seen by others.

When they got to the back side of the artificial hill, his servant checked the crossroad and found nobody carefully. Then he walked across the road and stood behind a tree to stand guard.

"Brother Tianyu! Brother Tianyu!" cried Qin Yuru. Qin Yuru never felt so heartbroken before. She knew there was nobody here so she held Qi Tianyu tightly and cried.

Qi Tianyu stood and let her hold him. He set his eyes on the face with tears streaming down. Although he once loved this face in the past, now it seemed that it was nothing more than this. He even wanted to laugh because of this funny crying face. He nearly couldn't help laughing.

He closed his mouth so tightly that he could try not to laugh.

"Fine. Don't cry. You couldn't help it!" Qi Tianyu sighed and put his hand on Qin Yuru's shoulder slowly. He patted Qin Yuru to comfort her and said softly.

"Brother Tianyu, I don't want to marry other people. I only want you... I want to marry you!" Thinking how soft Qi Tianyu was, Qin Yuru gradually felt sad. She even thought that Qi Tianyu was a perfect man. However, she found herself couldn't bear that this softness and gentleness wouldn't belong to her in the future.

She had never thought that Qi Tianyu would alienate her. A nameless sadness arose in her mind when she saw Qi Tianyu.

"You, want to marry me?" asked Qi Tianyu. His eyes were still deep while he looked soft.

"Yes! I want to marry Brother Tianyu! Let's flee away! Far away from here! Nobody would find us! Nobody could know where we are! We could live a happy life together forever!" Qin Yuru cried loudly, holding Qi Tianyu tightly.

She even felt that she treated Qi Tianyu with all her heart at this moment. She could give up everything and leave with Qi Tianyu. She wanted nothing but only Qi Tianyu.

"Okay, how about now?" Qi Tianyu promised her softly.

"Now? Really?" Then Qin Yuru stopped sobbing and her voice lowered. Although she still leaned in Qi Tianyu's arms, her body stiffened spontaneously. She hesitated and asked, "Brother Tianyu, where would we go? I know nothing. Would I, would I drag you down?"

"No, everything would be okay if I have you!" Qi Tianyu smiled, strangely. Qin Yuru lowered her head now affectionately with all her heart and didn't see his smile!

"Would, would my father chase us? How about your exam? Are you really going to give up? Would I really drag you down?" Qin Yuru raised her head and asked carefully.

"Then, then what should we do?" asked Qi Tianyu.

"I, I don't know. I just want to be with you. I don't want you to alienate me. I, I don't want to leave you but I don't want to drag you down. Brother Tianyu, what should we do? What should we do?" Qin Yuru felt more and more melancholy, seeming that she was the most persistent and infatuated woman in the world.

It seemed that she even believed her lie!

However, the pain in her eyes was true.

"Then, we would talk about it later. If you don't engage with someone else and I pass the exam, I would come to your mansion to propose to you again," Qi Tianyu said slowly in a soft voice just like when they pledged to each other in Jiangzhou.

Upon hearing it, Qin Yuru felt so excited. "Brother Tianyu, is it true? Will you come here and propose to me openly again?"

Chapter 157 The Skeptical Old Maidservant.

"I do but, but our relationship would mean to be nothing if you, if you have an engagement to others!" Qi Tianyu said and sighed. His eyes were gentler and gentler in which there were not only struggle and pathos but also love and unwillingness.

"Then... I would wait for Brother Tianyu to propose to me!" Qin Yuru smiled with tears. As she saw the pain and struggle full of Qi Tianyu's eyes, she finally relaxed and continued to promise solemnly, "I would be a noble aristocratic lady in the future waiting for Brother Tianyu to marry me when you pass the exam!"

"A good reputation is the most important factor. If I want this, I must not let Qi Tianyu spread any gossip which might do harm to me!"

"Okay!" Qi Tianyu nodded and patted her on her shoulder as he looked much gentler. He said, "Then it would be better for me to call you Lady Qin in front of other people and for you to call me Master Qi!"

"Yes! I only listen to you!" Qin Yuru nodded in agreement.

"Then I have to leave now!" Qi Tianyu said as he slowly pushed Qin Yuru away.

"You could come and see me as much as possible if you are free!" Qin Yuru said affectionately.

"I promise you!"

"Brother Tianyu, you go first! I want to see you off!" Qin Yuru said coquettishly.

"No, you first. Otherwise, I am, I am unable to leave!" Qi Tianyu answered a little bit embarrassedly.

"Okay, Brother Tianyu!" Qin Yuru bit her lips shyly and wiped her tears with her handkerchief. She walked out the artificial hill, waved her handkerchief to Qi Tianyu who stood behind the hill and finally turned around and left unwillingly.

Qi Tianyu checked his clothes and walked out the hill slowly when she finally left. He set his indifferent eyes on the Qin Yuru's nearly disappeared figure and smiled ironically.

Seeing his master walking out, his servant quickly followed him and left with him.

Their figures then vanished together.

Standing on an attic by the road, Qin Wanru watched this scene very clearly. Then, confusion and doubt flickered across her mind.

In her previous life, Qi Tianyu had always been Qin Yuru's right hand and tried his best to plot against Qin Wanru. She couldn't figure out why Qi Tianyu, such a clever man, would be so stubborn and couldn't know that Qin Yuru had always made use of him and put him on the bench.

Was Qin Yuru really important to him? So he could ignore the fact that Qin Yuru had an engagement to others and later married to another man because of her importance in his mind.

However, when she saw this scene, it seemed that there was something she had ignored in her previous life.

She frowned and stared at the artificial hill where they just met privately.

Although she couldn't hear their talk clearly because of the distance, she could watch their expression and action very clearly.

"Qin Yuru is really good at acting. I supposed that she almost does believe that she is a woman who values her lover. Her emotional cry looks really real."

However, Qi Tianyu seemed very strange, especially when he left so calmly. Something seemed to break up her conventional thinking.

"How could he act so calmly when he just said goodbye to his lover sadly? He even patted on his sleeves with a disgusted expression! It seems that the man who was gentle and affectionate when hugging Qin Yuru is not him!"

"But it is him!"

"Is there something that I still don't know? Do I miss something in my previous life?"

"Lady, it seems that Master Qi just abandoned the Young Lady!" said Yujie. She was beside Qin Wanru and also felt confused. She thought, "Do I misunderstand? People in Jiangzhou all said that Young Lady Qin wanted to marry a much nobler man in the capital city and then broke off the engagement between Master Qi and her with a plot. She even tried to blame it on my lady!"

Something seemed to jump into her mind. Qin Wanru still stared at the hill and thought of a thing that she didn't pay attention to in the past.

She didn't know those dubious things until she married into Deputy Prime Minister's Chambers. When she had been with Wen Xichi in his last days, it was Wen Xichi who told her as he was conscious.

He said that Qi Tianyu was Er Jia (the second level of the exam) but not the Yi Jia (the first level). However, when he took an exam in the palace, he was Tanhua, which meant ranking the third. Later, it was Duke Yong strongly recommended him that he could be the Tanhua of Yi Jia of this Session.

Qi Tianyu actually had nothing to do with Duke Yong's Mansion, but only Qin Yuru.

Qin Wanru suddenly figured out those things that she didn't understand before!

Qin Yuru must feel guilty of Qi Tianyu who was abandoned. If he pretended that he still loved her deeply, he could wager more on her.

Qin Yuru wanted Qi Tianyu to be her "back-up" voluntarily while Qi Tianyu wanted Qin Yuru to help him achieve his goal also voluntarily!

"They are meant to be a couple!"

"Lady, look! There is another person!" Yujie who still was leaning over the windows suddenly pointed at a person downstairs and shouted.

Qin Wanru saw in the direction of her fingers and found that an old maidservant walked out from a tree near the artificial hill furtively. She looked around and then left quickly.

The direction she walked toward was Yulan Pavilion where Madam Di lived.

"She is Madam Di's servant!"

However, when this old maidservant had not gone far, she turned around and looked back confusedly. The direction was the attic!

"Lady, does she recognize us?" said Yujie in a low voice as she lowered her head spontaneously.

Qin Wanru shook her head. There was a window here covered by the curtain. The bottom of the curtain was lifted a little bit. They could look down from this gap but they would not be found by others from outside.

"No, lady, she is coming here!" said Yujie as her face turned serious slightly.

They didn't expect that this old maidservant was so careful. She thought that the situation of this attic was very special, which meant that someone might see this scene. Thus, she came and checked if somebody was here!

"Don't worry!" Qin Wanru smiled and said, "Qing Yue is downstairs!"

She had known that Madam Di would send people to watch Qin Yuru, fearing that Qin Yuru would fall out with Qi Tianyu.

"Great! Great!" Yujie then relaxed and greatly admired her lady. She thought, "Second Lady has thought of that before!"

The old maidservant had not gone far while she saw Qing Yue coming to her at a distance. Qing Yue stopped and her face turned serious when she saw this old maid.

"Stop! Who is your master? Don't you know the rules here!" Qing Yue shouted coldly.

Although she had worked in this mansion for a long time, she didn't know this person in front of her.

"Nice to meet you. I am new here," answered the old maid with a smile. Hearing Qing Yue calling her, she knew that this person must be a long-term servant girl in this mansion and then stopped. However, she didn't tell her who her master was.

"What are you doing here so furtively?" asked Qing Yue arrogantly as checking this old maidservant. She hid as far as possible for fear that someone would find out her lady was in the attic. She saw that old maid had left but she didn't expect that this old maid would doubt if there was somebody in the attic and then turned back.

"Nothing. I, I just get lost and don't know where to go!" answered the old maidservant, still smiling.

"Where?" Qing Yue continued to ask severely.

"The, the kitchen!" answered the old maid quickly. She dare not tell her that she wanted to go upstairs to the attic. Although she said so, she still tried to look up stealthily. Here was much closer and she could see more clearly. The curtain was hanging down and everything seemed to be normal.

"In that direction! There!" answered Qing Yue. She looked unhappy and pointed at a direction.

"I sure appreciate! I would leave now!" Finding that there was no special situation, the old maidservant answered Qing Yue with a bright smile and bowed and scraped to her. Then she walked in that direction Qing Yue pointed at.

The old maidservant felt nervous because Qing Yue walked with her. She was so anxious that she almost wanted to turn around and check if Qing Yue was following her but she dare not show her trail. She had

to walk to the kitchen and pretended to ask for something in the kitchen. Qing Yue also got to the kitchen and took the bird's nest porridge that she asked the cook to prepare before...

In the attic, Qin Wanru took this chance to go downstairs with Yujie and returned to her Zhifang Pavilion. As they sat down for a while, Qing Yue came in with a hamper.

When she got into the room, she took the bird's nest porridge out of the hamper and put it on the table in front of Qin Wanru. Then she backed aside and said, "Lady, she was one of those old maidservants sent to Madam Di when Madam Shui and you were not here yesterday. Moreover, Madam Di claimed that you chose servants last time and the Young Lady and she now could take the turn to choose. However, the Young Lady wasn't there and Madam Di then asked them to stay by herself!"

"Is still the servant trader?" After Qin Wanru sipped the porridge, she then thought for a moment and asked.

"No. The other one. It is said that she is one of the most experienced servant traders in the capital city. However, I found that she didn't bring too many servants here this time but Madam Di asked most of them to stay. Madam Di is the most fastidious person, isn't she? I couldn't figure out why she would be so generous this time and would want most of them to stay without saying anything else!"

Qing Yue asked with shock. She knew that Madam Di was known as her bossy temper and rudeness. When she had been in Jiangzhou Prefecture, every servant knew that she would be very fault-finding when she was in a bad mood. However, she had become so easy-going when she just came to the capital city!

Qin Wanru smiled without saying anything. She then used a spoon and tasted the porridge carefully again. Her beautiful eyes narrowed. She knew that Madam Di had more servants loyal to her who she could use!

They should be those trusted followers chose by people of Duke Yong's Mansion for her. Otherwise, it would be impossible for her to let the old maidservant watch Qin Yuru and Qi Tianyu since they had just arrived at the Qin's Mansion. It wouldn't be so easy for Madam Di to trust somebody.

"Lady, I just found out something else in the kitchen!" said Qing Yue with anger. Thinking of the event she just saw, she was in a sulk.

She didn't know that until she followed the old maidservant to the kitchen. She felt angry when she saw the unexpected thing.

"Tell me," Qin Wanru raised her eyes and said.

Chapter 158 Who Took the Bird's Nest First?

"Lady, do you still remember the source of the bird's nest?" Qing Yue asked.

Unknowing why Qing Yue would ask this, Qin Wanru answered questioningly, "Our mansion newly bought the bird's nest for mother in order to build up her health. She particularly asked her servants to prepare an extra bowl of bird's nest for me when cooking porridge!"

"Yes! There is not only one bowl but four!" said Qing Yue indignantly. Thinking of that scene that four bowls of bird's nest porridge were in the kitchen, she vented her fury and said, "It is Madam Shui's

healthy bird's nest porridge and Old Grandma used her own money to let Madam Shui build up her health with that! However, why would everyone be able to enjoy the bird's nest now?"

"Did you ask about that?" asked Qin Wanru with her eyelashes batting.

"Yes, I did. I asked them who could have these bowls of bird's nest porridge and the supervisor of the kitchen told me that they were Madam Di's and Young Lady's. Why could they have them? It is Madam Shui's bird's nest! It is Old Grandma who spent her own money on it! You could have it because Madam Shui herself agreed to give you some in private! She even lied to you that she doesn't like bird's nest but likes its porridge so that there would be more bird's nest left!"

The more Qing Yue thought about it, the angrier she felt! The scene that the old maidservant took that bowl of bird's nest nearly made her blood boil!

"Qing Yue, did you get mad at that time?" Qin Wanru suddenly smiled and blinked her eyes.

"Absolutely! It is the bird's nest porridge which Madam Shui saved for you particularly! Why would they take advantage of it again?" said Qing Yue unwillingly.

"But if they don't?" Qin Wanru smiled with her crystal-clear eyes which looked like there was a lake in.

"What do you mean?" Qing Yue didn't understand.

Yujie who stood beside understood it immediately and asked, "Would Madam Di and Young Lady buy it themselves and ask the kitchen to cook?"

Her answer made Qing Yue's eyes almost pop out. She couldn't believe and asked, "Would Madam Di spend her money on it? Really?"

"Everything is possible. Why would this be impossible?" Hearing Qing Yue's words, Qin Wanru chuckled. She smiled lightly and said, "It was impossible in the past but it doesn't mean that it couldn't be possible now!"

Qing Yue was shocked. Biting her lips, she felt anxious and said, "Lady, I almost got mad and tried to knock over their bowls deliberately."

"Fortunately, you didn't. They might want to irritate you!" Qin Wanru warned, smiling lightly.

Her words suddenly reminded Qing Yue of the scene in the kitchen. She frowned and said hesitantly, "Lady, it, it seems so. When the old maidservant took those bowls of bird's nest porridge, she kept looking at me and chuckled, looking very proud of herself. Subsequently, she gave the old maid of the kitchen a small purse. Although they tried to be stealthy, I saw them!"

At first, Qin Wanru only made a guess at it but now she looked serious.

"Who took the bird's nest porridge first?" Qin Wanru's smile looked very deep.

"It was me. I saw that old maid tried to go upstairs to the attic so I stopped her. She said she was going to kitchen and now she got lost. I thought that the cooking of bird's nest porridge might finish so I went to kitchen with her in case she would come back and find out that you were in the attic. Before we reached the kitchen, she didn't know who I am."

Qing Yue also felt strange when recalling the memory of heading to the kitchen with that person. "At first, the old maidservant only dare steal a glance at me and asked for some normal desserts. However, when I took the bird's nest porridge, she looked at me and smiled very proudly. Then she said she also wanted the bird's nest porridge."

"It was after hearing her words that I noticed that there were the same four bowls of bird's nest porridge."

"I also saw the old maid give the supervisor a small purse subsequently. Thus, I thought that Madam Di bribed the supervisor of the kitchen so the supervisor quartered Madam Shui's bird's nest porridge which should be halved originally."

Qing Yue almost burst out exasperatedly when thinking of this. If she hadn't been worried about Qin Wanru who was still in the attic, she would have been unable to bear it any more for she might expose her lady's location.

Reconsidering the thing, she thought, "What a close call! The old maid acted deliberately and tried to let me get mad when she knew who I am! What a cunning old woman!"

After telling Qin Wanru the whole story completely, Qing Yue understood it very clearly. She asked anxiously, "Lady! What should I do now? When I left, the old maid was still there. However, I met Qionghua in the halfway!"

Qionghua must take the bird's nest porridge for Madam Shui.

"Where?" The smile on Qin Wanru's face vanished and her eyes looked very cold. She put the spoon in the bowl and wiped her mouth lightly with her handkerchief.

"She now should be in the kitchen!" Qing Yue's face turned pale and said, "Should I now get to her?"

"It is too late!" answered Qin Wanru lightly. A hint of darkness flashed upon her eyes. "How restless Madam Di is! She always tries to get rid of my mother's unborn baby! Her plan A just failed and then she has plan B now!"

"However, it wouldn't be her last resort. She is still sounding us out..."

"What should we do now? If Qionghua has the same thought with me in this event and screws Madam Di's and Young Lady's bird's nest up madly, Madam Shui must be scolded!" Qing Yue now was extremely worried. She almost did it madly. If Qionghua was thinking the same thing, she would definitely do it.

"No matter they try to irritate me or servants around Madam Shui, Madam Di and Young Lady would be innocent at least when something does happen. If they do pay for the bird's nest, Madam Shui would be unable to explain."

"Even though Madam Shui is pregnant now, she would absolutely be scolded."

"Madam Shui now is having a baby. If she is scolded and something bad really happens to her, things would be definitely trouble!"

"Lady, what should I do? What should we do?" Qing Yue looked really anxious and seemed like a cat on hot bricks. She kept looking at Qin Wanru and hoped to know the next step from her.

"Lady, I run faster and let me find her. Qionghua might be much calmer and she might not do it yet!" Yujie also got anxious.

"No. It is too late!" said Qin Wanru again. She then analyzed patiently, "The old maid reached there earlier than you but she didn't leave after she gave the purse to that person. Everything she did only means that she has decided to wait for Qionghua. She is very cunning. She knows the words that Qionghua doesn't like to hear. Thus, she might provoke her deliberately. If there are no other people hearing their talk and most people only see the final result, Qionghua must be the wrong one!"

"Then, then, how could we help her?" Qing Yue was so shocked and anxious that there was cold sweat on her forehead. Everyone knew that Qionghua was Madam Shui's right hand, which meant that Qionghua's behavior was on behalf of Madam Shui.

"Go and find out the source of Madam Di's bird's nest and the reason why they want the same bird's nest porridge like us. Madam Di used to like drinking the bird's nest thick soup but why she would want the porridge this time just like my mother!" Qin Wanru stared in the direction of Yulan Pavilion through window and said calmly.

Now all purchase was under the unified management of Qin's Mansion. If Madam Di did want something privately, she had to give the buyers money first and let the purchasing staff bring her goods into the mansion.

In order to gain better evidence, Madam Di would definitely not use the bird's nest she had before or those others sent to her. She must buy the bird's nest from an official shop.

However, there was a bug. When Madam Di came back from the Duke Yong's Mansion, she brought some presents in return. It was said that there were bird's nests in them. When she showed her presents given by Duke Yong's Mansion to Old Grandma, she looked really proud and arrogant. Qin Wanru gave a glance at the bird's nest at that time.

There were a lot of bird's nests and Madam Di had them all.

Madam Di and Qin Yuru enjoyed the same hobby that they liked bird's nest thick soup. All the people who had worked in the mansion for a long time knew this!

"There was only a little left then. Why would they fill the same four bowls with that porridge? How could they recognize which belong to Madam Di and her daughter's and which belong to mother's and mine?"

"Let me get to the purchasing staff!" Hearing Qin Wanru's analysis clearly, Qing Yue turned around and rushed out after she said to her lady.

"The purchasing staff of the outer court!" Qin Wanru added.

Qing Yue tried to ask more but there was no time left. Moreover, she now very trusted Qin Wanru so she ran out directly without asking why she needed to find the purchasing staff of the outer court.

"Then I go to the kitchen and see what is going on there. Qionghua might not get mad now!" Yujie thought that it would be better for her to go to the kitchen. No matter what happened in the kitchen, lady still knew nothing. Moreover, she ran faster!

When they made their tasks clear, they left in a hurry. Qin Wanru took the spoon and sipped. Then she put it down and her eyes looked deep.

Madam Di always acted quickly. Now it seemed that she decided to implement her plan slowly. But it would be better if something happened periodically.

It seemed that Duke Yong's Mansion not only sent her servants but offered advice to her!

Qing Yue returned quickly. Purchasing staff was divided into two groups, inner court and outer court. The purchasing staff of the inner court was under the management of Shui Ruolan while that of outer court was monitored by Qin Huaiyong.

Qing Yue went to the staff of the outer court directly. Fortunately, he was there. Knowing that she came for asking about the bird's nest, he checked the account and told Qing Yue that it was true. Madam Di told him that Young Lady and Madam Di wanted to have bird's nest and let him buy some back. Then he could find Madam Di to receive money. She didn't use the public funds.

It would not be a big deal in any mansion. Those masters had their own money. If some of them wanted something that they wanted to eat or use, they just need to spend their own money on those goods as long as they didn't use the public funds.

Qing Yue became wiser and asked him when Madam Di asked him to do this. The supervisor of purchasing told her that it was at that night that Shui Ruolan was found out being pregnant and Old Grandma wanted to buy some bird's nests for her with her own money. It was at the same night that not only Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru had the bird's porridge but also Madam Di and Qin Yuru!

Madam Di's purchasing order just followed Old Grandma's! It was on the same day!

Now Qin Wanru understood the whole story. The idea of this bird's nest porridge was not a provisional decision! It occurred when her mother was found out being pregnant! A hint of rigor flashed upon Qin Wanru's eyes!

When she tried to stand up with her hands on the table, there came a servant girl's voice. "Second Lady! Be quick! Quickly! Things totally go wrong! Come and see! People in the kitchen are having a fight now! Many things are screwed up!"

Chapter 159 "Take Her Away and Flog Her 20 Times!"

When Qin Wanru got to the kitchen, the two servants who fought each other were pulled apart.

Yujie was holding Qionghua while the supervisor of kitchen was holding the old maid. Their hair was totally in a mess because of their fight. There were even scratches in their face. They both looked very combative now.

Shui Ruolan still had not come here yet while Madam Di had been here and was interrogating them.

The old maid was the one they saw before. A throng of servants hung around the kitchen door and those people behind were standing on tiptoe and looking at the kitchen.

Qin Wanru came with Qing Yue quietly behind these servants and started to listen carefully. Madam Di's voice was very loud and sounded very furious.

They just stood so quietly and no people found them for they all focused on the event in the kitchen.

“Qionghua, why would you suddenly hit others without any reason? Do you think that it is able to bully the new servant just because you have been working here for a long time?” asked Madam Di severely, seeming that she had asked about this event clearly.

“Madam Di, it is she who provoked me and spoke evil of my master! I was so furious that I fought them! And...” Qionghua set her eyes on the bowls of bird’s nest porridge on the cooking bench and tried to spit it out angrily while Yujie suddenly twisted her wrist. “Ouch!” Qionghua felt pain and was unable to go on.

“Qionghua, are you telling the truth? She is new here. Or does anybody embolden her to let her provoke you, a senior employee? If she doesn’t know who you are and provoke you, she would be totally a fool! Don’t you think so?” Madam Di sneered.

“Madam! You have to help me! I am here to take your bird’s nest porridge for you! But this servant girl, I don’t know who her master is, said that you used her master’s bird’s nest to cook your bird’s nest porridge! And she said your bird’s nest porridge belongs to her master! I absolutely felt unwilling so I disputed with her. However, I never expected that she would beat me suddenly! Madam, you must stand by me! I am still new here and don’t know much about this mansion. And I don’t understand why you, the official Madam of General would want others’ things to eat!”

The old maid pushed the supervisor of kitchen away and burst out crying. She wiped her tears while she was crying and kept showing her innocence.

Now she was not only trying to show her innocence but also Madam Di’s!

Qionghua trembled with anger. “Why there would be such a person who would call white black in the world? She did provoke me first and gave a small purse to the kitchen supervisor furtively. She even talked to the supervisor on the sly, fearing that I would see them. But I did see them! It is clear that she wanted to ask the supervisor to give some Madam Shui’s bird’s nest porridge to Madam Di as much as possible!”

Qionghua even saw three same bowls! The bird’s nest was ordered by Old Grandma for Madam Shui. However, she didn’t want to have it herself so she used it to cook porridge so that the Second Lady and she could enjoy the bird’s nest. However, she felt angry when suddenly seeing three same bowls in the kitchen. Moreover, she found that the old maid even stood in front of those bowls proudly, opened the lid and sneered at her.

“It is hard to know what your master would give birth to though she has this expensive food! It would be better to let my lady have them. Then she would give birth to a chubby boy! A widow doesn’t worth these!”

When she said these words, her voice was not very loud but it was enough to let Qionghua hear. Qionghua got extremely mad at once when coming to her and caught the old maid and asked what she was saying.

The old maid definitely denied and then they had a fight. The kitchen supervisor knew things went wrong. Then he came to pull them apart but failed. It was when the supervisor felt so anxious that Yujie came in and helped the supervisor pull them apart. Madam Di came subsequently.

“Madam Di, she spoke evil of my master!” Qionghua argued loudly.

“About what?” Madam Di raised her eyebrows and asked curiously. Those who hung around the kitchen door listened more carefully. Qin Wanru who stood near the throng gave a cold smile on her face. How could Madam Di say this? She just let Qionghua repeat those evil words about Shui Ruolan in front of these servants and how she could do it as a servant!

The old maid must say something really malicious which would definitely offend Shui Ruolan!

“Madam Di, she, she said that my master, my master...” Qionghua felt extremely anxious and was even about to cry. However, she just couldn’t say it out.

“Madam, look, she couldn’t say anything! It is obvious that she wants to frame me! She knows that her words are fake! Now she even couldn’t answer you!” It seemed that the old maid was very cunning. She pointed at Qionghua and shouted really loudly when she caught the chance. There was even a satisfied expression on her face.

No servant would dare say “widow” out to everyone’s face. Moreover, there were many new servants in the mansion and few knew Shui Ruolan was a widow. If her private servant girl said the word, it would be a joke.

“See? I let you tell me and you don’t. How could I help you, Qionghua? Do you really frame her? She is only an old maid. Even though she was my servant, she is new here. How could you be so mean? It would undermine your master’s reputation!”

Madam Di said to Qionghua seemingly sincerely and earnestly. Her voice even sounded a little bit soft. It seemed that she was to stand by Qionghua.

Qionghua knew the truth but didn’t know how to argue. She just wanted to rush to the old maid and slap her severely to smash the disgusting smile in her face.

“Now how dare she look at me in such a provocative way! The triumph fills her eyes!”

“Qionghua, the business between your master and I is our family matters. Although we would have quarrels with each other sometimes, you have no right to meddle in it or use it. Now you even dare frame my people and claimed that she provoked you and spoke evil of your master! I gave you a chance to tell me but you didn’t. You must be afraid of being found out! If you couldn’t show any evidence, I would punish you according to the family rule!”

Her smile faded away. She now looked impartial and strict. She even said that though there was a gap between Shui Ruolan and her, they were still families.

Well, actually her words that they were families was only to punish Qionghua in a “fair” way.

Qionghua was furious and anxious. She wanted to rush to them but Yujie held her hand very tightly so she couldn’t move now. She looked at those people around, finding out that there were only some

servants and the supervisor of the kitchen. However, there were no other people beside them just now and nobody could testify for her.

"I..." Qionghua glared at Madam Di furiously. Now she knew everything that she was trapped by Madam Di.

Qionghua was clear that she was the first private servant girl of Madam Shui. She had always followed Madam Shui no matter when her Madam married and came back here after her Madam's first husband died. Her affection upon Madam Shui was totally different from the normal one between other masters and servants. If something bad happened to her, Madam Shui would definitely feel sad.

Now Madam Shui was pregnant so it would be terrible if she got sick!

"Then take her away and flog her 20 times!" said Madam Di calmly.

"Yes!" Suddenly, two strong old maids came and tried to take Qionghua outside. If she could survive after the 20 lashes, she would have to get a very severe injury. She even could not serve Shui Ruolan for a long time, at least. Now it had not been three months since she was pregnant. It was in a critical period.

It would be very easy to miscarry if not being careful!

Shui Ruolan would definitely feel distressed if she knew her most favorite first servant girl was punished. However, this was the "truth". It would be useless for Shui Ruolan to blame Madam Di because everything accorded with the "rules". What was more, it was Qionghua who couldn't make out.

Counting the time, Qin Wanru knew those who should come here would arrive here soon so she said, "Hold on!"

"Our Second Lady is here!" shouted Qing Yue loudly. A path quickly appeared with the throng stepping aside. Accompanied by Qing Yue, Qin Wanru walked in the kitchen slowly.

The two strong old maids pretended to hear nothing and continued to drag Qionghua away. Yujie stepped forward and pushed them heavily. They then retreated a few steps but still tried to come unwillingly. Suddenly Qin Wanru said coldly, "Slap them in the face for they don't listen to master's words!"

With Qin Wanru's order, Yujie came unceremoniously without hesitation and pushed the two strong old maids heavily and rudely. They stood steadily after taking a few steps back. Seeing Qin Wanru staring at them severely, they were shocked and dare not move.

"Wanru, though you are young, you seem to be very powerful!" Madam Di didn't expect that Qin Wanru would get involved in her business and her face blackened.

Actually she had counted the time. Shui Ruolan was in pregnancy so she couldn't come here quickly. Old Grandma was in poor health so she also couldn't reach here soon. Moreover, the business of the inner court should be reported to Shui Ruolan and seldom to Old Grandma. As for Qin Huaiyong, even if he came, Madam Di dealt with this event according to the family rules so he couldn't say something.

Madam Di wanted Shui Ruolan to be unable to speak out her grievances. If she couldn't argue, it would be possible for her to miscarry when she got really mad. That would be better!

However, Madam Di didn't expect that Qin Wanru would arrive here soon. Nobody would report this event to Qin Wanru. She was only a little girl and she had no right to manage the business of this mansion.

However, the person who she didn't expect at all appeared in front of her again when she almost finished her plan. How she could not be angry!

She now dared not look down upon Qin Wanru. She sneered at her and said, "Qionghua hit a servant deliberately and even framed others rudely. Now she could not explain the reason to me. If every servant acts like this, there would be no rule in the mansion, wouldn't it? Or am I unable to punish this kind of servants?"

She didn't worry about Qionghua's words. She still took the advantage in this event no matter it was about the bird's nest porridge or the old maid. It would be impossible for Qin Huaiyong to stand by Shui Ruolan this time, let alone Qin Wanru!

"An over-confident mean girl! She must think that she could manage everything!"

"Second Lady! It was she who caused this trouble deliberately! I am really wronged! You have to stand by me!" The old maid still thought the event was not troubled enough. She watched Madam Di's expression and wanted to please Madam Di with her effort as taking advantage of this event. She then rushed to Qin Wanru and cried loudly, seeming that she did want Qin Wanru to stand by her.

Madam Di was satisfied and she looked proud. How a little servant girl could beat the old fox. She just needed to wait and see the show then!

At the next moment, however, the smile froze on Madam Di's face!

Chapter 160 "Madam, Are You Angry?"

"Yujie, refresh her mind!" Qin Wanru said, smiling coldly.

Before everyone understood Qin Wanru's meaning, Yujie slapped the old maid in her face heavily and directly. She even kicked the old maid in her chest rudely, which knocked the old maid over.

Everyone was shocked!

How could people around the Second Lady behave so fiercely? The servant who named Yujie seemed to be very kind and gentle in daily life. She even smiled at everyone she met.

Many onlooking servant girls and old maids spontaneously stepped back. They dare not get close to Yujie and feared that they would irritate her because of their carelessness.

They used to think that Second Lady was the daughter of Madam Shui while Madam Shui was the one who managed the inner court. Thus, they would flatter them and, what was more, Madam Shui now was pregnant. Flattering Second Lady was equivalent to flattering Madam Shui. There was nobody who didn't pay attention to this and everyone all treated her reverently.

Now they realized that though the Second Lady was a child, she was very powerful, even much more powerful than these two Madams in the mansion. As the little girl just stood there facing Madam Di, she didn't seem to be weak at all but even she seemed to repress Madam Di.

Now nobody dare look down upon Qin Wanru!

“No! No! Qin Wanru, how dare you!” said Madam Di as she shook with rage. Nanny Zhou who stood behind her was also shocked and her face turned pale. Nobody would know that Qin Wanru would hit the old maid so unceremoniously.

She didn’t give her any chance to explain, or if she did, she would not plan to hear her explanation.

“Madam, are you angry?” Qin Wanru turned and looked at Madam Di and Qin Wanru smiled sweetly.

The smile was sort of childish and sweet but those onlookers here retreated a few steps spontaneously again for they could smell the danger from her smile.

It was so quiet that people could even hear a pin drop!

Qin Huaiyong came with Shui Ruolan. As for why he came late, it was because he was in Shui Ruolan’s room and she had to walk very slowly because of her baby.

Hearing Qionghua was in trouble, Shui Ruolan wished only if she could grow wings and fly there. However, it was Qin Huaiyong who feared that she would get hurt so he walked slowly with her. Thus, they finally arrived here now.

Watching the scene while getting here, Qin Huaiyong frowned and wanted to get in the kitchen. However, Shui Ruolan held his hand and looked at Qin Wanru who stood among the servants. Shui Ruolan felt in her bones that Qin Huaiyong shouldn’t appear now so she took his hand and stood behind those onlookers.

Now everyone focused on the event in the kitchen so they didn’t notice Qin Huaiyong and Shui Ruolan, who only took one servant girl and a servant.

“How, how dare you!” Gnashing her teeth, Madam Di looked at the people around and said, “The old maid is my servant, at least! How you could be so disobedient...”

Madam Di gnashed her teeth. Her beautiful face twisted because of anger. She didn’t show her power yet but let the little mean girl repress her in front of these servants!

“Qin Wanru! You are so disobedient! Kneel down!”

She decided not to show off her eloquence to Qin Wanru. She brought her servants here this time just in order to beat Shui Ruolan’s servant before Shui Ruolan stopped her. It would be better to let Shui Ruolan’s servant unable to argue and make Shui Ruolan devastated.

Now she couldn’t beat Qionghua and then she decided to vent her anger and malice to Qin Wanru in the name of “filial piety”. Even though she now was not Qin Wanru’s “mother”, she would be Qin Wanru’s elder when she still was Qin Huaiyong’s official wife. Then the so-called “filial piety” would repress Qin Wanru.

The dynasty governed the country with the proposition of “filial piety”. Madam Di did believe that she would absolutely repress Qin Wanru, the mean girl. Moreover, she did take the advantage in the event.

"Madam, why should I kneel down? Did I do something wrong?" Qin Wanru raised her rosy face as her eyes became cold.

"You hit my servant without knowing the whole thing! Don't you think that you should kneel down and apologize to me?" Madam Di banged on the table and said coldly.

"Well, you also hit my mother's servant without any reason. You also have to apologize, don't you?" Qin Wanru said without flinching. She had given a glance over the people and noticed Qin Huaiyong who stood behind the people with his hands at the back. Her eyes looked deep while a hint of smile flashed upon her eyes quickly.

"It would be better for him to stand there and he could hear the quarrel clearly!"

"Without him, Madam Di would speak out her thoughts directly much easily."

"Qin Wanru, you, you go too far! That servant girl framed others and you still stand by her and even protest against me! Is only because she is Shui Ruolan's servant?" She gnashed her teeth so tightly that her teeth even creaked. She couldn't lose face any more after being embarrassed by this little mean girl again and again.

She was the official Madam in the mansion. In her mind, she was the only madam of the Qin's Mansion. Now she was stuck by such a little girl and how she could calm down.

"Madam, I don't hear that Qionghua framed the other servant while I found out that the old maid beside you was malicious and tried to cause troubles. Do you lead to this event just in order to irritate my mother? She couldn't suffer this thing because she now is weak!" Qin Wanru said calmly. She set her cold eyes on Madam Di.

"A new old maid dare quarrel with the first servant girl of the Madam who manages this inner court in this emboldened way. Madam, actually I really want to know who gives her this kind of courage to let her be so daredevil!" Qin Wanru continued to say without giving any chance to Madam Di to interrupt her.

She set her flaming eyes on Madam Di, seeming that she could look through her mind.

Hearing Qin Wanru's words, all the people looked at Madam Di and the old maid. The old maid was new here and nobody in the kitchen saw her before. However, the servant trader just came not long ago. Thus, the old maid should belong to the servant group which just came to the mansion. Moreover, those new servants should be very careful, right?

The old maid seemed like an old fox being working here for a long time.

There were many old maids in the kitchen and many of them were sophisticated. They all felt the old maid was very dubious, unlike a new servant who just arrived here.

Qin Huaiyong reached out and held Shui Ruolan's hands. Shui Ruolan's hand were very cold. She felt so anxious that she even sweated but she couldn't walk faster. Now she found that Qin Wanru was there so she finally relaxed. When she stopped sweating, her body got cold, very cold.

If not Qin Wanru was there, Qionghua would suffer badly. The relationship between Qionghua and Shui Ruolan had been beyond words. If Qionghua was punished, Shui Ruolan didn't know whether she would be okay then!

When she figured it out clearly, she got colder feet and hands!

"Madam Di's target was me and my unborn baby. Qionghua was only a tool for her to fight against me!"

Qin Huaiyong pinched her hand lightly and held her cold hand tightly with his hand. He said softly in a low voice, "It would be okay. Everything would be fine!"

He looked contemplative. He thought she just was a normal servant girl. Even if she was Shui Ruolan's private servant girl, she was nothing but a person who could serve Shui Ruolan. Now he suddenly knew the position of this servant girl in Shui Ruolan's mind. The servant girl who named Qionghua was special to Shui Ruolan.

"It seems that I have to consider it carefully!"

Shui Ruolan still looked pale. She bit her lips and nodded in silence.

Qin Huaiyong gave a sign to the servant who followed them. Then there came the servant's loud voice, saying, "General and Madam Shui arrived!"

Finding that there were other masters coming, those onlooking servants then stepped back quickly again. Qin Huaiyong came in the kitchen slowly as holding Shui Ruolan's hand.

Hearing the servant's call, Madam Di knew that this event could be very serious today but she wasn't panic. If this thing could be in a mess, in a greater mess, she would satisfy when Shui Ruolan's people lose their mind.

Now the mean girl, Qin Wanru, had meddled in this affair. If it finally turned out that the servant of Shui Ruolan was wrong, then there would not only the servant girl Qionghua be punished, but also Qin Wanru. She did want to see what Shui Ruolan would do when seeing her people around her being punished one by one!

Would she lose her mind on the spot?

Well, that would be a great surprise!

When she set her eyes on their hands holding together, a hint of jealousy flashed upon Madam Di's eyes. However, she knew it was not the right time for her to be jealous. When seeing Qin Huaiyong coming here, she bowed to him quickly and said, "Perfect timing, general. Just let me tell you what Wanru said to me. She was partial to sister's servant. It just seemed that sister sent people to provoke me deliberately!"

Qin Wanru also bowed to him but said nothing.

"What is going on here?" Qin Huaiyong shot a glance at all people here and asked in a deep voice. He was a military general so he always looked very powerful. Nobody dare raise their head in the direction where he set his eyes on.

Even the old maid who had been moaning lying on the ground now dare not continue. She just put her hand in her chest tightly, seeming that she was so weak.

However, Qin Huaiyong was a general who had been to battlegrounds for many times and he could tell that the weakness was pretended immediately.

His eyes suddenly turned sharp while setting on the old maid's face. Not to mention the cause of this event, the old maid was not a good one.

"General, it is my sister's servant who spoke rudely and had a fight with this old maid, making the kitchen in a great mess. A servant came and found me so I am here. Considering that sister now is having a baby, I thought I could help her deal with this. However, I didn't expect that this servant girl was too malicious. She, on the one hand, claimed that it is the old maid who provoked her and spoke evil of her master while on the other hand, she couldn't tell us what the old maid said. It is obvious that she wanted to frame others deliberately. General, just let me know should this sort of servants receive punishment?"

Madam Di seemed to have been well prepared. She blurted out as she looked angry and furious. It seemed that it was because of the malicious servant, Qionghua that she would get mad.

When she finished, she even said bitterly, "Now my sister is inconvenient because of her pregnancy so she needs servants around her to help her manage things. This servant is so malicious and she might get sister into trouble. However, sister now could not bear this. For sister, it would be better to drive her out and find other good servants!"

She said more and more sincerely as if she did consider for Shui Ruolan with her whole heart. Her words even covered all the points that Qionghua couldn't explain. She couldn't defend herself at all. Qionghua's face flushed and she clenched her fists and felt furious.

"Father! The old maid is the ill-disposed one! Hope you could punish the old maid!" A clean voice suddenly came out. Everyone turned and looked at Qin Wanru who seemed to be natural and graceful...